Student Exchange FAQ
Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore

Housing and Meals
Am I required to live on-campus?
Students have the option to live on or off campus. The International Office will advise them and provide useful links and contacts.

What are the rooms like on campus?
All single rooms with private restroom. Rooms are furnished with a bed, a chair, a desk, a wardrobe and book shelves. Weekly cleaning is provided.

Is there internet access in the rooms?
Wi-fi access is provided for all guests as well as on the whole campus.

Is there a cafeteria on campus?
All students have access to the campus cafè and cafeteria (canteen). The cafeteria is located inside the main Residence Hall. Each meal costs € 5.00 to 7.70, but if you buy a € 30 (Exchange students) or € 60 meal card (Double Degree students) valid for the semester, each meal costs € 4.50 to 6.65.

Students Visa
How and when do I apply for a students’ visa?
All visa applications must be made in person at the Italian Consulate in the US before leaving for Italy. Students will apply for a study visa for “technical and professional instruction beyond the level of compulsory education”. Specific information about visa requirements will be given to students during their pre-departure orientations. More information about the types of documentation required can be found on the website of foreign affairs for Italy at: www.esteri.it
Once in Italy, students must register with the department of immigration to get a Residence Permit. The procedure must start within 8 days from their arrival in Italy. The International Office will advise students accordingly.

About Piacenza

How do I get from the airport to Piacenza?
Piacenza is located about 61 kilometers (38 miles) southeast of Milan. The closest airport is Milano Linate, although some international flights arrive at Milano Malpensa. From the airport you can reach Milano Central Station by bus (shuttle), train or the underground (metro) in about one hour. Trains to Piacenza are frequent and cost about 7.00 Euros. The journey takes 50 minutes.
Please check out the timetables at:
http://www.trenitalia.com/trenitalia.html
http://www.italotreno.it/IT/Pagine/default.aspx
From Piacenza Railway Station take bus 2 or 3 to get to UCSC (bus ticket price: 1.20 Euros – one-day ticket: 3.50)

Please check out the timetables at:

**What kind of a city is Piacenza?**

Piacenza (population of about 100,000) is the logistics hub of the Emilia-Romagna region located on the Po river. The city boasts beautiful Romanesque and gothic architecture. Piacenza is one of the most renowned cities in Italy for the arts. It boasts a great number of historical palaces, often characterized by splendid gardens. Piazza Cavalli is the main square of the town. It is so called ("Cavalli" means "horses") because of the two bronze equestrian monuments of Alessandro Farnese (Duke of Parma and Piacenza from 1586, nephew and valiant general of Philip II of Spain) and his son Ranuccio, who succeeded him to the dukedom. The city is located in the heart of the so-called Food Valley, surrounded by a beautiful countryside with crops, green fields, vineyards and medieval villages. Piacenza is well-known in Italy for its local food products and wines.

**How will I get around?**

Piacenza has an extensive bus system. Monthly passes cost around € 30 and a 10-ride ticket costs about € 9. Many students find it helpful to purchase a used or new bicycle. As it is common in many European cities, there are bicycle lanes to facilitate travel by bike.

**What is the weather like?**

The weather in Piacenza is similar to the weather in Boston, but winters tend to be a bit milder. Average low in January is about 26 °F and the average high in July is about 60 °F. The rainiest month is October.